

6-30-03

MACOMB COUNTY LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gary Witt Gloria Roelandt
Kera Witt Rick Drinkhorn
Amy Marcath Ken Goike
Jason Hale

MEMBERS ABSENT

Steve Marcath
Chris Bohm

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Gary Witt—Vice President in the absence of the President Steve Marcath.

Gary Witt began the meeting by acknowledging the presence of Bill Hahn and other fair board members and Marilyn Rudzinski. Gary acknowledged that the matter of the status of the Macomb County Livestock Committee remained unresolved and the although the committee was not convinced that going under the jurisdiction of 4-H the best thing to do and with rumors contributing to the problem he felt a need to provide closure on the issue in order to follow through with the 2003 auction and provided the first part of the evening to this issue. The second part of the meeting was for fair preparation planning, something which had not been allowed proper attention due to the problem above. The question asked of Marilyn Rudzinski was if the Macomb County Livestock Committee were to go under jurisdiction of 4-H MSUE, would it be left alone to carry on as always without a lot of changes since it has been doing a good job in the past as is.

Marilyn Rudzinski began by stating Hank Allen had called her after he had received a call from Gloria Roelandt. Marilyn apologized for the late release (June 18, 2003) of the March 12, 2003 4-H MSUE minutes from the initial meeting between members of the 4-H MSUE, Macomb County Livestock Committee, and Armada Agricultural Society, stating that they all had to be “approved” by Hank Allen. Marilyn handed out a copy of the letter Ken Goike asked Hank Allen to send dated June 16, 2003 which listed requirements to come under 4-H and a copy of the MSUE Financial Accountability Policy for MSUE Sponsored Groups. She stated if the Macomb County Livestock Committee came under the jurisdiction of MSUE the title of the Committee would have to include “4-H” and be under the Developmental Large Animal Committee headed by herself. Marilyn stated closed meetings are not allowed under 4-H.

Marilyn stated the financial operation of the Macomb County Livestock Committee would have to be approved by the MSU board which includes “monthly bank statements, fundraiser reports, annual audit, and IRS 990”. “The auction is a fundraiser.” A 4-H liaison would be involved. Gary Witt conveyed the concern of 4-H families regarding tax deductions and buyers. He discussed concern of the Macomb County Livestock Committee wanting to stand separate from 4-H without hurting the kids, and that most families probably aren’t aware of all the information regarding this issue.

Marilyn Rudzinski stated it’s a “matter of choice” of whether the Macomb County Livestock Committee chooses to be under the Fair Board or 4-H, but that she has been instructed to send letters to 4-Hers soon if the auction is not a 4-H sale, and currently “can’t call it a 4-H livestock auction”.

Randy Russ stated there was no point in further discussion, that the Fair Board voted for the Macomb County Livestock Committee to go under 4-H.

Carl Myer stated it is a matter of interpretation, that the Macomb County Livestock Committee was “Thrown out” by the Fair Board. He stated it has been learned the Macomb County Livestock Committee has no liability coverage. Yet. Carl stated the by-laws of the Macomb County Livestock Committee have a 30 day change notification guideline which is during the September, Special Planning meeting. Carl stated the Macomb County Livestock Committee is “caught in the middle”. “We need liability coverage”.

Marilyn Rudzinski stated if the Macomb County Livestock Committee intends to come under the jurisdiction of 4-H MSUE the committee would need to file a "letter of intent". She stated that the Macomb County Livestock Committee has not been "compliant" with the 2002 financial report, that the committee "disengaged yourself". She stated that if the committee goes with 4-H so late in this year there will be an audit, financial records of 2002 must be sent to MSUE, the committee must show intention of complying with a letter of intent, recognize by-laws, and work through problems until the 2004 4-H year.

Gary Witt stated that the idea that the Macomb County Livestock Committee didn't comply by not sending a financial statement to 4-H "hurts" because previously it had, however when it was learned over the past several months that temporary use of the 4-H logo isn't allowed yet was issued, that Macomb County Livestock Committee immediately ceased doing so, as was indicted was proper by Hank Allen at the March 12, 2003 meeting.

Gloria Roelandt attempted to give a chronological list of events since September 2002 regarding this issue and was interrupted.

Carl Myer asked Marilyn if the regional office of MSUE will work with the committee in good faith. He stated the by-laws of the Macomb County Livestock Committee hold change until the September 2003 Special Planning meeting, that the real issue is if the Macomb County Livestock Committee may act in good faith to come under 4-H. Carl asked Marilyn Rudzinski if there is enough time to comply, that the committee needs insurance because it was "orphaned by the Fair Board". Suggestion from the audience to send a letter of intent with a projected timeline to revise by-laws or problems. Marilyn stated, "I can't say 'yes', Hank will get a recommendation from me, I haven't been able to go to him with that."

A vote of Macomb County Livestock Committee members was called by Gary Witt, paper ballot was lost out to show of hands. Gloria Roelandt stated she had no intention of changing her vote because the members of the Macomb County Livestock Committee were voted into their positions, they unanimously voted in January on this issue, and people shouldn't have to change voted based on pressure from others.

Gary Witt made a motion to vote to either comply for the sake of this year's auction or not, the motion was seconded by Randy Russ. The motion carried. The vote was 6-4 to comply.

Some members of the audience pressed for the letter of intent to be written immediately after the meeting. Carl Myer suggested a sub-committee to compile a letter with Marilyn Rudzinski. Gary Witt asked for Carl Myer, Gloria Roelandt, Gary Witt, and Randy Russ to work on the letter of intent. Gloria Roelandt declined.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Randy Russ stated he did not approve the notes taken by Gloria Roelandt at the March 12, 2003 meeting which were attached to the minutes of the April 28, 2003 meeting. Randy Russ made a motion to accept the minutes and notes of the April 28, 2003 meeting as corrected which was seconded by Carl Myer

TREASURER'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Amy Marcath and seconded by Jason Hale to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted by Mitch Miller with an ending balance of \$4,564.98. The motion carried. A motion was made by Carl Myer and seconded by Randy Russ to reimburse Gloria Roelandt for \$18.30 for postage. The motion carried.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: none noted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A new policy for bringing livestock onto fairgrounds which does not apply to livestock in barn #15 briefly mentioned regarding checking livestock papers outside the fairground gates.

Informed by Marie Marcath that the monkeypox alert was cancelled for involvement with rabbits at the fair.

Gloria Roelandt indicated that there were 150 hogs and 64 lambs tagged June 1, 2003. It was noted 1 steer, 1 lamb, and 1 hog lost a tag so far. The steer was retagged. Rick Drinkhorn will retag the others.

It was noted the bankers haven't been notified of this year's sale agenda. Ray Kuschel volunteered to assist Mitch Miller.

Jason Hale was given a double checked 2002 poster list. Possibility of no clover on poster year due to late date. Pam Malburg needs to be asked if she's a sponsor this year, the photographer needs to be secured. Marilyn Rudzinski wants a 2002 poster to show to Hank Allen for his recommendations. Ed Miller volunteered to help with promotions (poster. Photographer).

Mitch Miller stated sale slips have been ordered.

Billboards to be updated by Chris Bohm.

Truckers to be called by Chris Bohm.

Auction backdrop decoration on hold for now.

Auction booklet printing was taken care of by Jerry Grobbel in 2002 and will do this year per Lynn Grobbel. It was stated the printer needs two weeks notice to make sure they can do it. Mr. Grobbel will provide straw for the sale arena.

Refreshments briefly discussed. Carl Myer stated it's late for charitable donation paperwork to be handled, it's possibly easier to go to discount stores. Jason Hale will arrange for fruit. Heather Bohm volunteered to get peanuts from New Haven Elevator and Armada Grain.

Gloria Roelandt gave notice of poultry tagging/rabbit tattooing date of July 20, 2003 at the Armada Fairgrounds from 12:00-2:00p.m. Carl Myer and Jason Hale to attend in her absence.

Reminded of 4-H club fairground clean-up July 19 & 20.

ADJOURNMENT:

A letter of intent from the Macomb County Livestock Committee to 4-H MSUE was to be formulated after the meeting.

A motion was made by Carl Myer and seconded by Rick Drinkhorn to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:17p.m.